



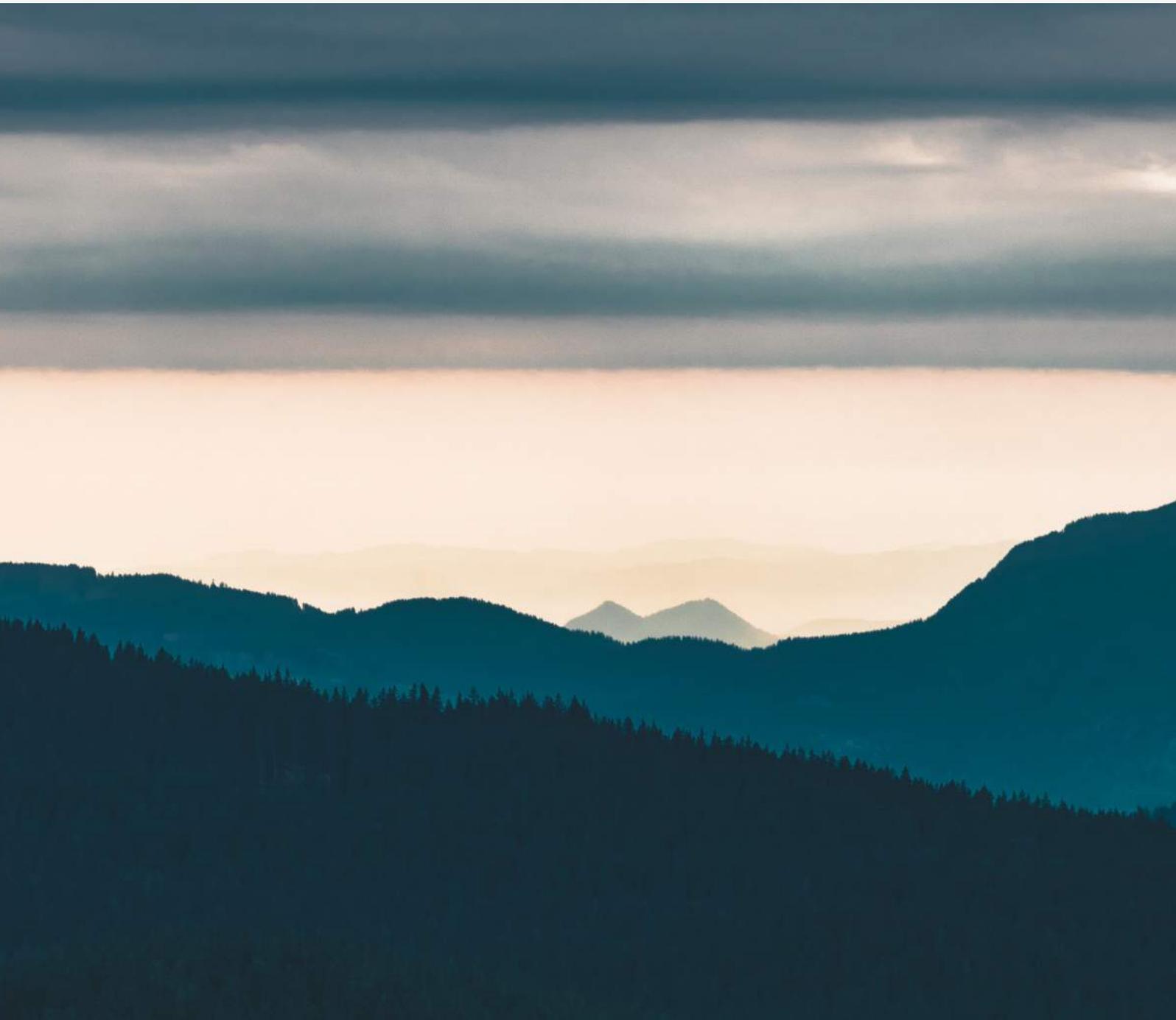
Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Peace and Biodiversity  
Dialogue Initiative



Empowered lives.  
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4 FEBRUARY - 22 FEBRUARY 2019

# PEACE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE  
SUMMARY REPORT

LEARNING  
FOR NATURE

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary and evaluation of the free Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Peace Park Development and Management. The course was offered on [the Learning for Nature platform](#), which connects biodiversity policymakers, change-makers, and on-the-ground subject matter experts to facilitate the delivery of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This MOOC ran from 4 February 2019 through 22 February 2019.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed the course in partnership with [the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), its [Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative](#) and the [NBSAP Forum](#). The MOOC, offered simultaneously in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic, was aimed at Peace Park development practitioners and environmental peacebuilding enthusiasts, but was open to everyone.

The course focused on building the skills needed to make a strong case for Peace Park establishment by providing learners with the guidelines to effectively plan, manage and monitor a Peace Park. Week 1 served as an introduction to Peace Parks. Week 2 provided a step-by-step guide for developing and managing a Peace Park, and Week 3 analysed ways to address the challenges associated with the creation and management of a Peace Park, and explored solutions that work through insights from projects taking place on the ground.

The Peace Park Development and Management MOOC attracted more than 700 participants from 128 countries. Participants represented diverse regions including sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Central and Western Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States and Canada. Participants were highly engaged in the course, resulting in a completion rate of 25.14% (three times the industry average) and more than 1,200 engagements on the Learning for Nature course forums.

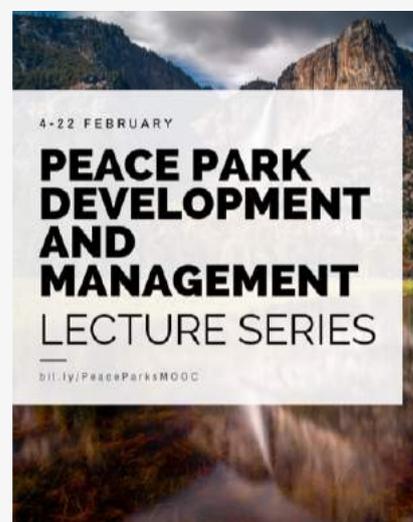
Weekly webinars, offered in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic, were largely popular among participants, generating 996 views from the webinar platform ClickMeeting and YouTube. The webinars featured experts from UNDP, the Peace Parks Foundation, Environmental Law Institute, IUCN, University of Waterloo, Canada, Institute for Water Studies at the University of the Western Cape, and the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative, among other prominent institutions. Forty-three videos with over 22 hours of footage were uploaded to the Learning for Nature YouTube Channel and have garnered 460 views as of March 2019. The Learning for Nature membership increased to 4,247 after the MOOC.



**3 LESSONS/5 LANGUAGES  
(15 TOTAL)**



**3 LIVE WEBINARS/  
5 LANGUAGES  
(15 TOTAL)**



**3 VIDEO LECTURES/  
4 LANGUAGES  
(12 TOTAL)**

**25%**

completion rate  
=3 times the industry average

**73%**

participants with policy-relevant  
profiles

**97%**

percentage of participants with  
the ability to influence policy  
who will use their learnings from  
the course to influence policy in  
the future

**98%**

total course satisfaction rate

# FIRST MOOC ON THE STATE-OF-THE-ART E-LEARNING PLATFORM

## Native speaker facilitators

The screenshot shows a discussion thread with three posts. The first post is from @thebirdblues, discussing community development work in a park for peace. The second post is from MTorresChile, replying to the first post. The third post is from rogerbangala1@gmail.com, discussing the challenges of sustainable resource management in parks. Each post includes a profile picture, a 'Member' badge, a 'Reply' button, and a '1 month ago' timestamp.

**@thebirdblues**  
En el área de frontera entre Colombia y Venezuela, realizamos trabajos de desarrollo comunitario y el elemento que permite evaluar el éxito de un proyecto, puede ser la disminución de uso de carne de monte. En un contexto de parque para la paz, las políticas de evaluación de especies amenazadas de Birdlife y/o IUCN permitirá medir la eficacia de un parque para la paz.

**MTorresChile**  
Hola Juan Carlos,  
Muchas gracias por tu comentario. Efectivamente son muy útiles para los parques para la paz. De hecho, ¿Puedes contarnos más acerca de los actores principales en Colombia y Venezuela? Aunque queda poco para que se abra el curso.  
Saludos!!  
Marcela

**rogerbangala1@gmail.com**  
Les objectifs sont fondés ainsi que les buts à atteindre. Seulement, il se pose le problème des habitants autour de parcs. Pour eux, ces parcs sont des supermarchés où ils trouvent leurs nourritures en y pratiquant la chasse, la pêche, l'agriculture ainsi que la vente de bois. Cette culture longtemps enracinée dans les habitudes, ne facilitera pas la mise en œuvre de parcs. Il faudra alors qu'il y ait une conscientisation de population et une contribution de manière à diminuer au fur et à mesure l'usage abusif des parcs. Il serait souhaitable de s'investir de trop auprès des autorités administratives des contrées concernées... [Read more](#)

**MTorresChile**  
Salut Roger, Merci pour votre commentaire. L'utilisation traditionnelle des ressources naturelles dans les zones protégées pour leur consommation personnelle est courante dans le monde entier et, souvent, elle est réellement réalisée de manière durable. Le problème se pose lorsque l'extraction des ressources a pour but de tirer des revenus d'activités non durables, ce qui se produit généralement avec l'exploitation forestière dans de nombreux pays tropicaux. Pouvez-vous s'il vous plaît nous dire à quel endroit en particulier vous pensez pour ce parc de la paix? Parfois, un bon moyen d'empêcher l'extraction excessive de ressources par les communautés locales consiste à les... [Read more](#)

## Dynamic space for peer-to-peer engagement

Individual profiles/an easy way to build networks and engage in discussions

The screenshot shows a user profile for Viktoriia Brezheniuk and a message interface. The profile includes a profile picture, name, and a background image of a person silhouetted against a sunset. The message interface shows a conversation titled 'Regarding Peace Park Development and Management' between the user and 'feiny'. The right sidebar shows a list of connections with their names, active times, and 'Cancel Friendship' buttons.

**Viktoriia Brezheniuk**, @viktoriiabrezheniuk

**Regarding Peace Park Development and Management**  
Conversation between you and feiny.

**feiny** Sent 1 month, 2 weeks ago  
I see it now... bravo to me and all my coursemates

**Send a Reply**

**Connections** Connection Requests (0)

Name	Active Time	Action
Learning for Nature	active 1 hour, 10 minutes ago	Cancel Friendship
Jenna Ingram	active 1 hour, 27 minutes ago	Cancel Friendship
Marion	active 3 hours, 36 minutes ago	Cancel Friendship
CalvinParahau	active 7 hours, 15 minutes ago	Cancel Friendship
rogerbangala1@gmail.com	active 7 hours, 44 minutes ago	Cancel Friendship



## ENGAGING DIVERSE LEARNERS

The Peace Park Development and Management Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) engaged 708 participants from 128 countries. The highest number of participants came from Latin America and the Caribbean (175), Sub-Saharan Africa (166), and Asia and the Pacific (92). Within these regions, the countries with highest participants were Colombia (63), Nigeria (29), and India (25).

Webinars conducted via the ClickMeeting platform attracted a total of 173 attendees from at least 16 countries. Following the United States and Canada, the regions with the highest number of viewers were Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa. Viewers were able to tune into the webinar sessions via desktop and laptop computers, tablets, and cellular devices.

Webinar sessions in five languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic) featured 9 speakers during 15 online sessions. Webinar speakers were experts in the field of sustainable development, environmental peacebuilding, and transboundary conservation, and hailed from UNDP, the Peace Parks Foundation, Environmental Law Institute, IUCN, University of Waterloo, Canada, Institute for Water Studies at the University of the Western Cape, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other prominent institutions (see pages 15-19 for a complete list of webinar speakers).

All webinar sessions were made available [on the Learning for Nature YouTube channel](#). During the course these webinars - nearly 22 hours of footage in total - had been viewed over 460 times. All webinar presentations and recordings are available here: [Week 1](#), [Week 2](#), [Week 3](#).

## REACHING POLICY- MAKERS

The MOOC illustrates Learning for Nature's ability to reach and influence key target groups. Out of 262 survey respondents, 73% are able to influence policy in their job, and 97% of those participants will use their learnings from the course to influence policy in the future. Testimonials further demonstrate impact of the course on linchpin actors.

*"I am really pleased and excited to have taken this course, it has taken my very limited knowledge of Peace Parks to a significantly higher level. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Learning for Nature and its sponsors."*

Testimonials from participants show that the MOOC provided them with practical tools to effectively plan, manage, and evaluate Peace Parks, often enabling them to fundamentally change the way they approach their work.

*The course was highly motivating, well organized and met my utmost expectations. It provided a detailed description of the subject matter. I would gladly recommend to others."*

Participants' profiles included senior government officials and environmental policymakers. Some examples include:

- Senior Parks Planner, Government of Alberta, Canada
- Director of Pollution Operations Monitoring Center, Ministry of Environment and climate affairs, Oman
- Deputy Director, Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management, Suriname
- Deputy Director, Ministry of International Development Cooperation, Nigeria
- Vice-President, Balkan Peace Park Project, Albania
- Environmental Expert, Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Eritrea
- Project Technical Officer, Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda
- Specialist, Nature Conservation Division, Department of Forests and Park Services, Bhutan
- Natural Resources Officer, Department of Environmental Affairs, Botswana
- Environmental Manager, Secretariat of the Environment, Brazil
- Environmental Researcher, Ministry of Environment, Egypt
- Analyst, National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia
- Forestry Engineer, Government of Mozambique
- Manager, Ministry of Environment, Cote d'Ivoire

**> 1.2K**

engagements on the discussion  
forums

**> 2.4K**

engagements on Facebook

**> 8.5K**

impressions on Twitter

**> 146K**

total reach of Facebook posts  
about the course

# WEEK 1



## Introduction to Peace Parks

Each week of the course focused in on a specific topic that contributed to shaping participants' understanding of Peace Parks. Required online lessons provided essential information about the week's topic. Participants were given the option to engage with experts in the field through webinars, as well as to enrich their learning through discussions with their peers. Optional weekly lectures provided summaries on each week's topic. Finally, weekly assessments tested participants' understanding of course materials.

Week 1, Introduction to Peace Parks, focused on the context for the creation of Peace Parks. The course materials defined Peace Parks and highlighted their objectives and benefits, outlined the international policy framework that enables their establishment, as well as the global trends in the creation of Peace Parks. Finally, the course components highlighted the contributions of Peace Parks to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Survey results (Figure 1) indicate that the Week 1 objective of the course was reached: to provide the necessary basic guidelines for the effective planning of Peace Parks. Click on the Week 1 components above to learn more.

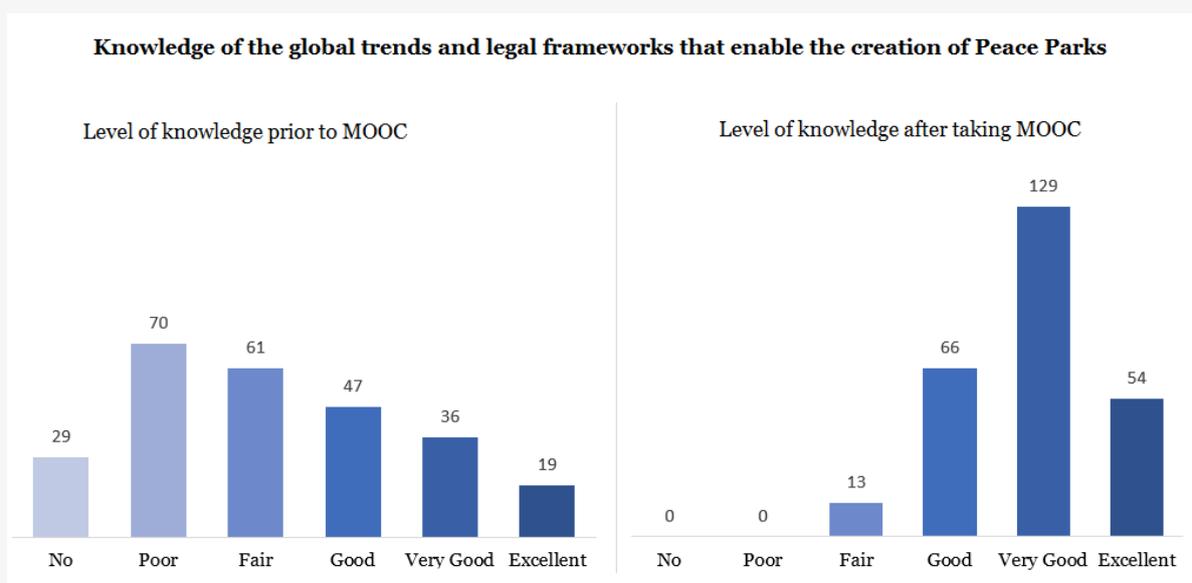


Figure 1. Differences in level of knowledge of the global trends and legal frameworks that enable the creation of Peace Parks (average across five languages).

# WEEK 2



## Developing and Managing Peace Parks

Week 2 provided a step-by-step outline for creating, planning, and managing Peace Parks. During this week course participants reviewed the four stages of Peace Park planning, and went over each step of the action framework for Peace Parks: diagnose, design, take action, and evaluate. Course materials touched upon the key elements for consideration when designing an effective Peace Park management plan, such as the development of cooperative arrangements, mastering the basic negotiation strategies and skills and more.

Survey results (Figures 2 and 3) indicate that the Week 2 objective of the course was reached: to provide the tools for developing an effective Peace Park management plan. Click on the Week 2 components above to learn more.

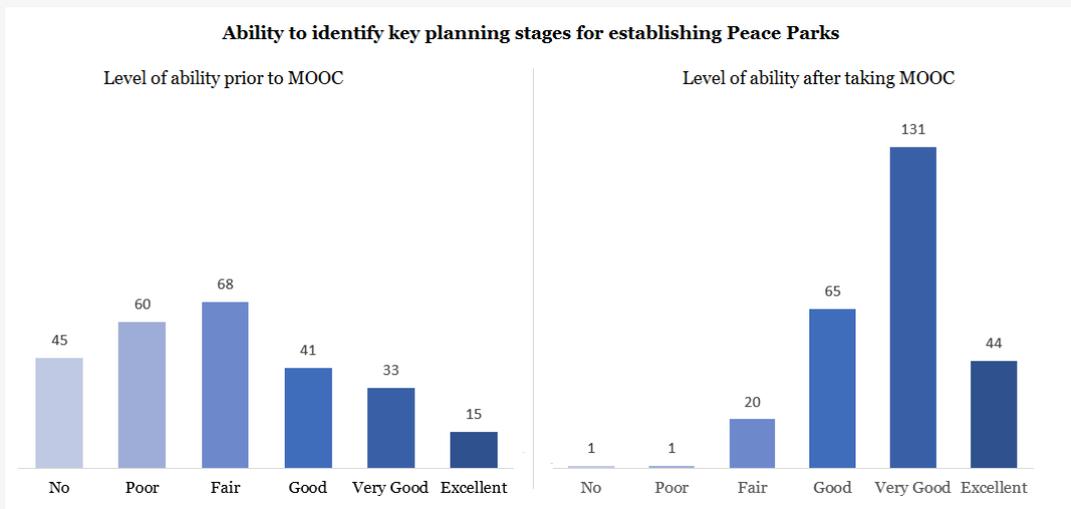


Figure 2. Differences in ability to identify key planning stages for establishing Peace Parks.

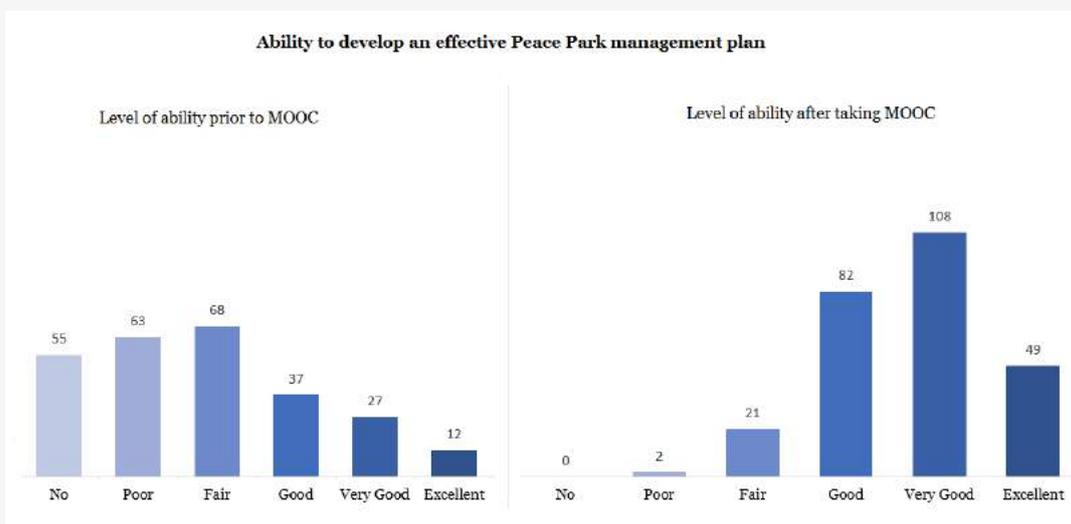


Figure 3. Differences in ability to develop an effective Peace Park management plan.

# WEEK 3



## Challenges and Lessons Learned

Week 3 addressed the common challenges and lessons learned on diverse topics, including environmental peacebuilding and conflict resolution; legal, governance and law enforcement challenges; cooperative planning and management, environmental issues, socioeconomic, cultural, and regional integration challenges; and securing financial sustainability.

Survey results (Figure 4) indicate that the Week 3 objective of the course was reached: to address the challenges associated with the creation and management of a Peace Park. Click on the Week 3 components above to learn more.

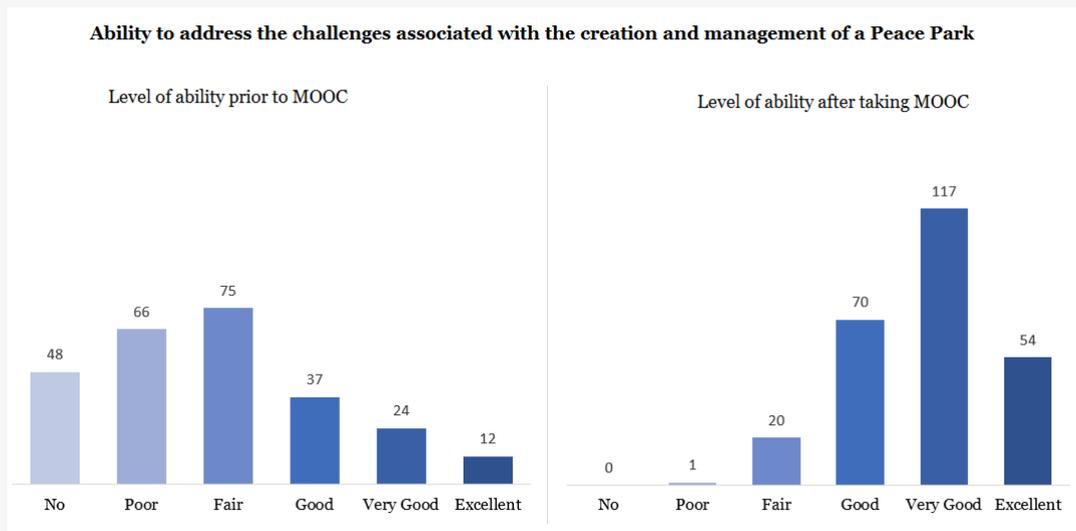


Figure 4. Differences in ability to address the challenges associated with the creation and management of a Peace Park.

# ACHIEVING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course survey was designed to evaluate participant satisfaction with the MOOC, the degree to which the MOOC enabled participants to meet the learning objectives, and whether the MOOC contributed to the goals of Learning for Nature to build the capacity of policymakers to deliver on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Overall, the evaluation of the course shows that the MOOC provided a key mechanism to build the capacity of biodiversity policymakers and practitioners and increase awareness about how conservation and environmental peacebuilding can go hand-in-hand.

Survey results reveal participants' satisfaction with the content of the course, their interaction with the MOOC team, and their engagement with other participants.

98% of all the participants were satisfied or highly satisfied with their learning experience across all five languages. The course evaluation soundly concludes that the MOOC has reached its learning objectives.

The majority of participants (64%) noted that the fact that the course was available in five languages impacted their decision to take the course.

The majority of participants rated the course workload and the course difficulty as "just right". Many noted that the materials were well-designed and that the lessons included highly useful information and were presented in a professional manner.



Member

VonjyGildas

Bonjour à tous les Responsables et des Partenaires,  
Nous vous remercions tous les cours ceux que vous avez proposer. C'est vraiment très intéressant et en apport des connaissances beaucoup pendant les forums, les quizz..., Je suis bien reçu mon Certificat de Développement de la gestion du parc pour la paix. J'espère de continuer les cours et les collaborations des partenaires afin d'améliorer les connaissances et les expériences en terme de Parc pour la paix.



Member

Ashadi

Wow!!!! I am so happy I did this course as my workplace is just getting into formulating a management plan for our MMA. Very useful information! thanks!



Member

Yommybeulah

Its been a wonderful experience taking this course as i have no knowledge of Peace park development and Management before now BUT now i can boast of an excellent knowledge of Peace Park establishment, and making a strong case for Peace Park development by addressing the challenges associated with the creation and management of the transboundary protected areas. God bless the Facilitators of this course



Member

BAGIIREMOSES.

Very massive, thanks to the entire team which is behind this course delivery.



Member

lekito2019

Wow! Very intensive and educative. Some of the questions required critical analysis of available resources. Thank you!

# GENERATING INTEREST ON SOCIAL MEDIA

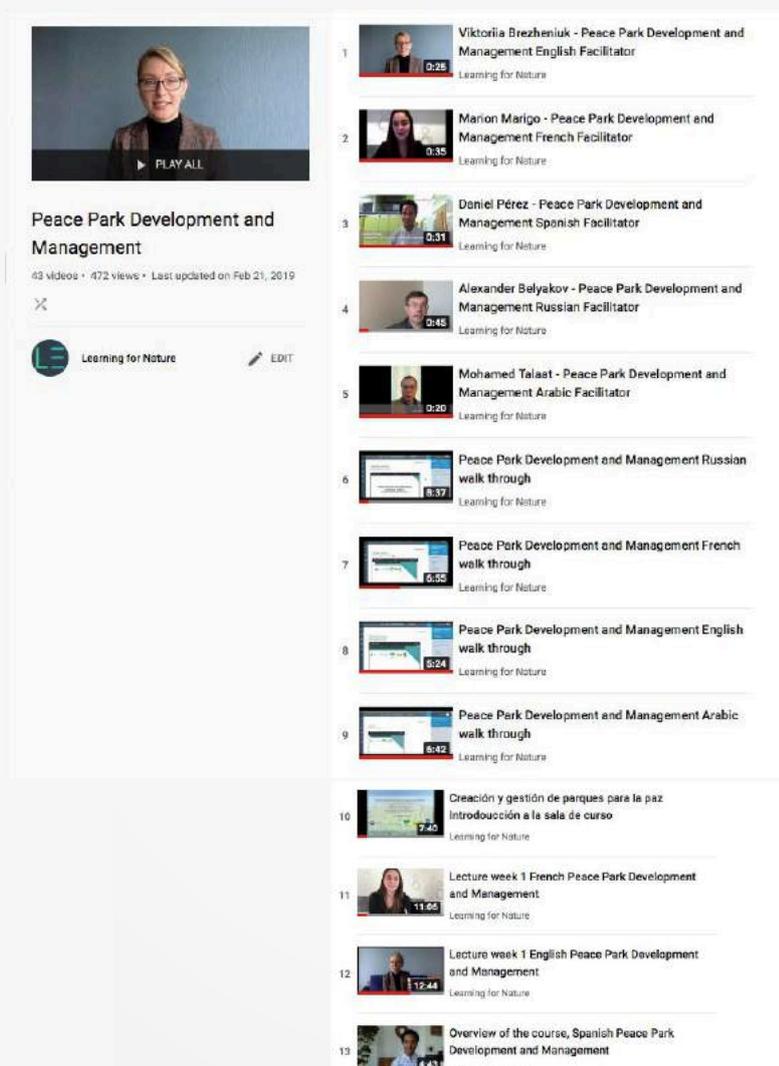
Social media engagement ensured higher turnout of course participants, and provided an additional outlet for learners to interact. Collectively, the Learning for Nature Facebook and Twitter accounts engaged with tens of thousands of users throughout the course.

The Learning for Nature Facebook posts dedicated to the course reached more than 146,000 Facebook users, resulting in over 2.4K direct engagements between Facebook users and the Learning for Nature Facebook page.

The analysis of the Facebook audience showed a significantly higher engagement level among women (54% of women compared to 45% of men), with the largest audience falling in the age group of 25 to 34 (34%), followed by the age group of 35 to 44. A language analysis, as expected, shows the largest number of followers among English (USA) speakers, followed by Spanish, English (UK), and French speakers.

The Learning for Nature Twitter account earned an average of 450 impressions per day, totaling over 11,000 impressions throughout the course. Audience demographics for Twitter revealed a more insignificant gender gap among followers compared to Facebook, with 51% male and 49% female followers. The geographic distribution shows that the majority of followers are from the United States (20%), followed by the UK (9%) and Colombia (5%).

Finally, the 43 videos (with a total of over 22 hours of recording) posted on the Learning for Nature Youtube Channel generated over 460 views, attracting more than 720 unique users.



01/24/2019 4:59 PM	Antony Alexander of the Peace Parks Foundation			192	
01/23/2019 3:17 PM	We are happy to welcome Clara Bocchino			671	
01/14/2019 2:47 AM	Looking for a step-by-step guide on planning,			3.3K	
12/17/2018 11:48 AM	Historically, political boundaries between			30.5K	
11/30/2018 10:46 AM	This week we opened registration for two world			1.9K	
11/29/2018 1:31 PM	NYDF Global Platform presents its first podcast			252	
11/27/2018 10:06 AM	The Biodiversity Finance Initiative - BIOFIN,			16.8K	
11/26/2018 11:06 AM	#PeaceParksMOOC uses the most			44.7K	
11/25/2018 1:46 PM	Today at #COP United Nations Development			38.6K	

# BUILDING COMMUNITY AROUND POLICY-RELEVANT ISSUES

The course reached its ultimate objective - to build a community of practice around Peace Park development and management. Throughout the course, webinars provided space for rich discussions which continued on the Learning for Nature discussion forums and privately between participants and experts.

The interactive features of the Learning for Nature platform together with the active facilitation by subject matter experts in five languages ensured continued engagement among the participants, gauging their interest in further involvement in all the aspects of Peace Park development and management.


io375

As far as I live in the almost geographical centre of Kazakhstan, there are no boundaries nearabout but Kazakhstan has boundaries with the following countries: China, Russia, Uzbekistan, and some others. Of course nowadays the most influential neighbour is China, so we have some ecological problems concerning water resources in the East of Kazakhstan. The Altai Mountains are also situated there. A Peace Park could be created in the East of Kazakhstan together with Chinese cooperation and in the West there is the Caspian Sea, it is one of the largest lakes in the world. It is divided between 5 neighboring states. It can become a Peace Park as well.

2
11 days ago

---


Jorg Ostrowski

I want to plan an International Peace Trail along the coast of the Caspian Sea to link Russia, Kazakstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, & Azerbaijan. I have proposed 3 International Peace Parks bordering Azerbaijan, one of which is shown below. It would help to preserve the biodiversity of the area, protect the fragile environment, promote clean up of specific areas, recognize vernacular architecture, build small scale infrastructure (solar/wind farms), preserve heritage, invigorate small business, create jobs for local people, & connect people from different countries to build friendships, partnerships & lasting peace. Anyone interested?


Mariyeh

I found this lesson very useful and motive. Thanks to the provider team!

---


loggovadviser

This paper serves as a very good introduction for the topic, especially for people having minimal conceptual and practical experience /backgrounds on Peace Parks.

---


jedmnd

Thanks to Carl for the great , very clear presentation with the excellent examples provided in the question and answer section. The focus on solutions to the challenges is very helpful and refreshing!

---


fabrice

C'est un très bon theme, et surtout la partie synthétisant les cours précédents. Merci pour cette information combien très utile pour la suite de la carrière.

**Quinten:** How can I get more involved in the SADC Peace Parks initiative?  
**marta mills:** Thank you Alexander. I have recently worked on a tourism-related project for the TJS and WWF Caucasus so am aware of their work. My research will also support their work. And yes Adnan pls share  
**Alexander Belyakov:** Great, Marta!  
**Clara Bocchino:** @Quinten: SADC has no Peace Parks initiative, but a TFCA programme. There is, however, an outfit called the Peace Parks Foundation. Which one are you interested in?  
**Quinten:** My neighbours are PPF and we together form part of a TFCA. I am interested in both as the land adjoining me is not being utilized for any purpose and I would like to assist in growing the TFCA.  
**marta mills:** Thank you very much for your answers!  
**Clara Bocchino:** @Quinten: I think we need to take this privately? As a landowner within a TFCA or near a TFCA, you need to start talking to the government of your country, before you do anything else?  
**Quinten:** @Clara: yes please.  
**Clara Bocchino:** @quinten, you are welcome to email me.

**Dirk Pienaar:** Andrew I am working for the #Khomani san community who owns land within the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. I can thus ensure you that different strategies and approaches are applied to ensure full community participation. In our case is that our community are very proactive by taking full conservation responsibility and developed their own strategy of sustainable consumption which they tabled to all stakeholders involved. This ensured that poaching in this area completely stopped and the sense of ownership for the natural and cultural heritage of the #Khoami was solidified. I also work with professionals that work on various community projects in the Kruger. I am more than happy to put you in contact with them to shed some light on the current situation and strategies.  
**vera:** I think of illegal immigrations like we have now in Europe (for example)  
**Andrew:** Dirk, that is great to hear the work you are doing in Kgalagadi and Kruger


Jorg Ostrowski

An excellent publication for many reasons!!!! It provides a "seed" to sprout, support & nourish the spread of Peace Parks. It provides a "garden" of fertile ground, the sunshine & the rain that can make Peace Parks flourish. It can also be the "launching pad" so that Peace Parks can grow & thrive with fuel beyond the 6 already established.

12

# SUPPORTING CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

To support continued engagement after the course, Learning for Nature provides access to the following resources indefinitely:

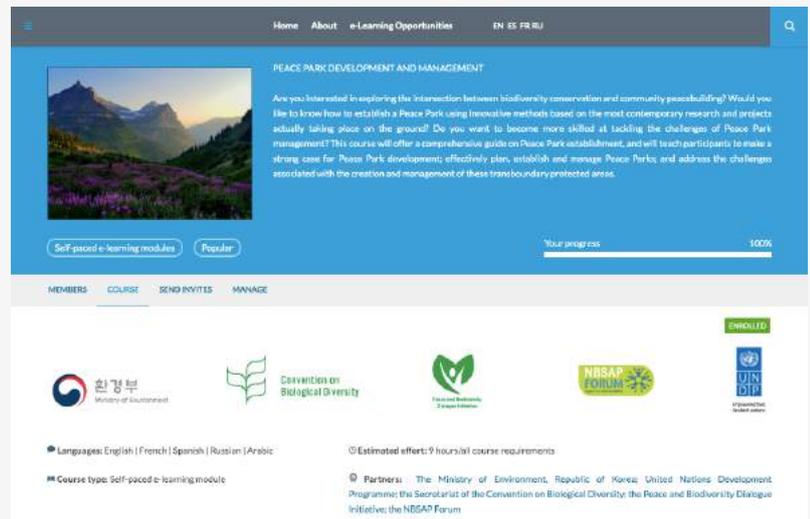
The full Peace Park Development and Management Webinar Series accessible on the Learning for Nature Youtube channel including recordings of fifteen webinars showcasing the work of leading experts in the field of environmental peacebuilding.



The original versions of the presentations from the webinar series for each week.



The self-paced online module Peace Park Development and Management, available in all the course languages starting 1 April 2019.



# SELECTED TESTIMONIALS

Testimonials received from course participants provide qualitative data illustrating the impact of the MOOC as well as data demonstrating its ability to impact linchpin actors. We received testimonials from the MOOC participants in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic. Selected testimonials are provided below.

*"This was a really good course, and for me very interesting as am working very closely with the Peace Parks Foundation over the last 8 years. We also have Joint Management in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and are also owners of a heritage park within the bigger KTP and have commercial and cultural rights in the Park. This course will help us to deal better with the challenges we currently face as a community."*

*"En mi país Colombia y en el escenario de postconflicto que vivimos, adquiere gran importancia este curso. Ya que permite aprender sobre temáticas para el trabajo en comunidades locales y de frontera y la imperiosa necesidad de conservar la diversidad biológica y la consolidar la paz, las cuales están siendo amenazadas. Este curso, da herramientas de trabajo. Gracias!"*

*"The course is a major enrichment and boost for my work as an environmental conservation journalist. It has opened my eyes to interesting dynamics of what entails a peace park. I will definitely take up the challenge to include all the knowledge gathered in my writings."*

*"Le MOOC est une très bonne initiative qui permet de renforcer les capacités des acteurs à un coût réduit et avec plus de flexibilité. Des milliers de personnes peuvent suivre le cours sans trop de contraintes et interagir avec d'autres professionnels de part le monde. C'est aussi un moyen de réseautage."*

*"This course has given me a far greater understanding into the development and management of Peace Parks, which has a direct impact on my job and has better positioned me to be more effective in what I do. For anyone interested in conservation and the importance of Peace Parks, I would recommend this course."*

*"Замечательный курс, рассчитанный на широкий круг лиц - и на специалистов, чтобы подтянуть и освежить знания, и на обычного человека, обеспокоенного тенденциями развития планеты и желающего принять активное участие в формировании благоприятного будущего. Рано или поздно человечество поймет, что сохранение редких видов животных и мест их обитания возможно только совместными интернациональными усилиями. Данный курс ускоряет момент этого понимания."*

*"Me gustó la combinación de los apuntes en pdf con el resumen en video, el contenido en general es muy interesante, yo llevo trabajando en áreas protegidas 25 años sin embargo nunca había tenido una capacitación de este tipo."*

*لقد أعجبني الشركاء الذين قدموا هذه الدورة، ولقد أستفدت معلومات جديدة من خلال هذه الدورة فمن قبل هذه الدورة لم تكن لدي أي معلومات عن محميات السلام، ولكن بعد الدورة أصبحت أعلم بمحميات السلام وكيفية أنشائها وإدارتها.*

# MEET THE EXPERTS

## Facilitation team



VIKTORIIA BREZHENIUK, ENGLISH FACILITATOR

Viktoriia is an international development professional experienced in community mobilization for sustainable development. Viktoriia combines her graduate-level academic training in comparative and international education and international political economy and development with professional experience in the NGO sphere, private sector and Permanent Mission of a UN member-state, to facilitate partnerships between various stakeholders for the advancement of social, political and environmental components of sustainable development.



ALEXANDER BELYAKOV, RUSSIAN FACILITATOR & SPEAKER

Alexander is an individual consultant on peace and biodiversity issues at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). He serves as a focal point for this course under the SCBD's Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative. He has taught Sustainability Management at Ryerson University in Canada and Environmental Journalism at the National Taras Shevchenko University in Ukraine. He was a visiting scholar at the Environmental Journalism Program at the University of California, Berkeley. Alexander wrote his Ph.D. thesis and conducted research to show that communication can be an effective tool of environmental policy. He is a Certified Sustainability Professional (ISSP-CSP).



DANIEL PÉREZ, SPANISH FACILITATOR

Daniel is a web specialist responsible for responding to the web requirements of the Global Programme on Nature for Development. He develops Information Management Systems by defining and assessing the team's needs, always implementing best practices to assure the highest IT standards. Daniel has been working with UNDP since 2010, and his experience, both in country offices and HQ, makes him better understand how to use information and communication technologies to create innovative solutions that help accelerate sustainable development.



MARION MARIGO, FRENCH FACILITATOR

Marion is a Technical Specialist working on the Sixth National Reports to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) project. For the past two years, she has been providing guidance to Parties on the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans. Marion also supports the development of the UN Biodiversity Lab, a spatial data platform, and emphasizes the importance of using spatial data to improve the implementation of conservation plans at the national level. Marion is an expert on the linkages between gender mainstreaming and biodiversity conservation, a topic on which she co-wrote an online course.



MOHAMED TALAAT, ARABIC FACILITATOR

Mohamed is the former Undersecretary for Protected Areas Sector of Egypt, Nature Conservation Sector in the Ministry of Environment. He has more than 19 years of experience related to protected area management and nature conservation both in the governmental sector and international bilateral/multi-aid projects (UNDP/GEF/UNESCO). He holds a PhD in Ecology and environmental management of wetland ecosystems, a Master's degree in Plant/Fresh Water Ecology and a Diploma in management of water resources.

## Production team



JAMISON ERVIN, SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Jamison Ervin is Manager of the Global Programme on Nature for Development. She has worked with UNDP since 2008. Previously she worked with The Nature Conservancy, World Wide Fund for Nature, and the Forest Stewardship Council. She holds a Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Vermont, a master's degree in international administration from the School for International Training, and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Bates College.



SARAT BABU GIDDA, SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Sarat Babu Gidda is the Head of Biodiversity Science, Policy and Governance Unit and Senior Programme Management Officer at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He is an ecologist with over 25 years of experience in natural resource management and in situ conservation. He served the Ministry of Environment of the Government of India, participated in the formulation of India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, as well as the development and implementation of India's biodiversity legislation and biosafety regulations. He holds Masters and PhD degrees in Ecology, and another Masters in Rural Resources and Environment Policy from the University of London.



ANNIE VIRNIG, PROJECT MANAGER

Annie is an experienced environmental professional working at the intersection of research, policy, and practice to facilitate delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. Annie coordinates the production of a wide range of capacity building tools across subjects including biodiversity conservation, environmental management, local sustainable development, resilience, and sustainable consumption and production. She is responsible for liaising with a diverse team of subject matter experts, partners and clients. She holds a double B.A. in Biology & Local and Global Social Change from Macalester College and an M. Phil in Ethnobotany from the CUNY Graduate Center and The New York Botanical Garden.



MARCELA TORRES, AUTHOR OF MOOC LESSONS

Born in Chile, Marcela is a writer, translator and trainer, with over 15 years of experience. She holds a Bachelor of Journalism from Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile, and a Master of Tourism, with a major in Ecotourism, from James Cook University, Australia. Since 2015, she has been a Mentor for the MOOCs on “Greening the Economy” and “Sustainable Cities” offered by Lund University through Coursera.org. In 2012, she taught a “Sustainable Enterprise” course, which she designed, at the School of Commercial Engineering of the Universidad de Talca, in Chile. Prior to that, she was Marketing Specialist for The Nature Conservancy.



EVA GURRÍA, COURSE ADVISOR

Eva is a policy advisor with UNDP's Global Programme on Nature for Development specialised in natural resource management and environmental governance. Eva works with indigenous peoples and local communities, private sector and governments to promote and advance best practices for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and sustainable development. She has a Master's degree in Sustainability and Environmental Management from Harvard University and an MPA from the American University of Paris.



MARC ATALLAH, COURSE ADVISOR

Marc is an environmental professional specialised in biodiversity and environmental policy. Marc has an interdisciplinary academic background, with a Master's degree in Public Policy and Global Affairs from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Manchester. He is responsible for the day to day activities of the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, exploring and promoting the use and establishment of protected areas for conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.



JENNA INGRAM, PROGRAMME ASSISTANT

Jenna is a Programme Assistant to the Global Programme on Nature for Development team. She is a graduate of SUNY Geneseo with a degree in Anthropology, and is currently a Master's student in Sustainable International Development at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. She supports the creation and promotion of educational materials for the e-learning team.

## Speakers



CARL BRUCH, GUEST SPEAKER

Director of International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and the founding President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association (EnPAx). An authority on environmental governance, he has helped dozens of countries throughout Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe strengthen their environmental laws, institutions, and practices. His work focuses on environmental peacebuilding (especially after conflict), environmental governance, adaptation, and environmental emergencies. He has provided technical and legal assistance, built capacity, and conducted research across Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Eastern Europe, including many conflict-affected countries. He has edited more than ten books and authored more than 80 journal articles, book chapters, and reports.



CLARA BOCCHINO, GUEST SPEAKER

Clara is an independent consultant, who has dedicated her professional life to the study for Transfrontier Conservation in Southern Africa as driver for sustainable socio-economic development and peacebuilding. She has been involved in regional processes for the establishment of networks and Community of Practices on TFCAs, Transboundary Water Management and One Health in TFCAs. In 2017, she compiled the Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for the SADC TFCAs Programme. She has lectured on the role of TFCAs for sustainable development and peace building both in Southern Africa and Europe. She is a member of the IUCN TBC Specialist Group.



LARRY SWATUK, GUEST SPEAKER

Larry has had a 35 year association with Southern Africa, beginning with a 6 month visit to Lesotho in 1984. Between 1989-96 he was a Research Fellow, National University of Lesotho; Visiting Scholar, University of Swaziland; Post-Doctoral Fellow, Rhodes University; and Senior Research Fellow at ACDESS in Nigeria. From 1996-2007 he was a Lecturer in Politics and Associate Professor of Natural Resources Governance at the University of Botswana. During this time period, among other things, he served on the Steering Committee of the Okavango Delta Management Planning Process; was a member of the Government of Botswana's coordinating body preparing for the Durban World Parks Congress; and President of the Ngamiland CBNRM Forum. Currently, he is a Professor in the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, Canada and Extraordinary Professor in the Institute for Water Studies at the University of the Western Cape. His most recent publications include *Water in Southern Africa* (UKZN Press, 2018).



ANTONY ALEXANDER, GUEST SPEAKER

Antony is the Senior Project Manager at Peace Parks Foundation. After years of working in engineering and commercial development in Africa, Alexander joined the Peace Parks Foundation in 2010. From 2010 and 2016, he was based in the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique as part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) where Peace Parks Foundation was the implementing agent for various donor funded programmes. As Project Manager, his key objective was to develop the Park through implementation of the various donor programmes, while also supporting the Park Warden in the management of the Park. Over the past two years he has been based in Maputo in the Mozambique Country Manager and Senior Project Manager portfolios primarily responsible for oversight of the development and co-management support of four conservation areas totalling around 2.2m hectares in two transfrontier landscapes.



KHALED ALLAM HARHASH, GUEST SPEAKER

Khaled has over 22 years of experience in management positions on a wide range of topics: biodiversity conservation, protected area management and planning, ecology, habitat restoration, world heritage site nomination and strategic planning. He represents Egypt as a focal point for the Programme of Work on Protected Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity. He is a member of two commissions within the International Union for Conservation of Nature: the World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Commission of Ecosystem Management (CEM). He currently serves as the Director of the Central Department of Biodiversity within the Egyptian Ministry of Environment. He received his PhD in Ecology in 2012.



NINA KANTCHEVA TUSHEV, GUEST SPEAKER

Nina is a strategic adviser with Tribal Link Foundation, where she helps develop strategies to support indigenous communities' lands, territories, resources, and rights. She spent over a decade at the United Nations Development Programme: with the Equator Initiative supporting indigenous and local communities' efforts to protect biodiversity while reducing poverty and promoting best practices into policy fora, and with the UN-REDD Programme, ensuring that climate change mitigation mechanisms fully include indigenous peoples and civil society in governance and decision-making. She also co-founded an initiative to use frontier technologies such as drones and 3D mapping for the protection of indigenous and communities' territories.



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